

Suzanne Smith was born in Sechelt, British Columbia, Canada and immigrated to the United States at the age of six. She is the successful Executive Director of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority.

As Executive Director of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Ms. Smith has orchestrated numerous projects, including the widening of Highway 101 and the development of the SMART rail line. She lobbied at the state and federal levels to secure funding for these projects while also securing a voter approved sales tax measure to support future transportation developments in Sonoma County. She is the founder of the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA), where she helped establish a climate action plan in Sonoma County to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions 25 percent by 2020. The RCRA was recognized by President Barack Obama as one of sixteen Climate Action Champions in the United States.

Suzanne Smith serves on the boards of the Red Cross, Leadership Santa Rosa, Tomorrow's Leaders Today and as a member of Sonoma County's Democratic Central Committee. Ms. Smith holds a BA in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego and an MPA from the University of San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Ms. Suzanne Smith for her achievements and for enriching our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today with the American Dream Award.

HONORING WILLIAM K.W. KIM, RECIPIENT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AWARD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William K.W. Kim, whom I have selected to receive the American Dream Award. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in my district who have made remarkable contributions to California's 5th Congressional District communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service. Mr. Kim exemplifies these attributes and is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Mr. Kim was born in Daegu, South Korea and immigrated to the United States. He and his wife Yolanda came to Vallejo in 1980. He is a successful business owner and a hard-working member of our community.

Over the past 36 years, Mr. Kim taught over 10,000 students to be leaders in society through Taekwondo in Vallejo. The philosophy of Taekwondo and Mr. Kim's teaching have helped students from all walks of life. Many struggling young people have found support and personal growth through their lessons from Mr. Kim. He currently operates William Kim's Taekwondo Center, one of the nation's largest martial arts facilities. He holds the highest rank in Taekwondo, the 9th Degree Black Belt, and was inducted into the "Taekwondo Hall of Fame" in 2009.

In addition to running his business and mentoring our youth, Mr. Kim is an active member of the Vallejo community. Most notably, he initiated the Sister City Relations with Jincheon, South Korea and the City of Vallejo in 1999. He has helped us improve our community's relationship with the people of South Korea. Mr. Kim currently serves as the International Liaison Officer for the two cities. Mr. Kim and his wife have a son and two daughters. They strive to live positive lives and help others do the same.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Mr. William K.W. Kim for his achievements and for enriching our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today with the American Dream Award.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT MOON
JAE-IN

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea upon his first visit to the United States.

Rooted in rich history, the United States and the Republic of Korea share a special relationship based on robust bonds of collaboration and camaraderie. The most illustrative manifestations of American and Korean partnership have been the economic and security alliances formed since the early 1950s. Together, we have worked to thwart the spread of territorial and international threats while also engaging in mutually beneficial trade and investment. In the 21st century, our special relationship will only expand as we face new challenges to regional and global security and promote free and fair trade. Our nations must forge ahead to put an end to North Korea's nuclear program. Failure on this front would compromise global peace and state sovereignty. And, ultimately, we must continue to seek an end to the conflict between the North and the South—which has destroyed lives and entire families—by reunifying the Korean Peninsula. As our nations encounter a critical moment in history—a moment simultaneously fraught with peril yet abound with opportunity—this visit provides an opportunity to enhance our established commitment to security and the advancement of strategic interests.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome President Moon and look forward to our continuous and prosperous partnership with the Republic of Korea.

HONORING LUISA ACOSTA, RECIPIENT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AWARD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Luisa Acosta, whom I have selected to receive the American Dream Award for California's 5th Congressional District. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in my district who

have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service. Ms. Acosta is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Ms. Acosta was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States. She is a successful community activist and is committed to social justice, particularly for employee rights.

Luisa Acosta, the daughter of immigrant farmworkers, spent her childhood in the fields harvesting pears and walnuts and working in a fruit packing facility. Though this work was difficult, her time as a farmworker instilled in her a fierce determination, resilience and desire to better her community through social justice work. She has worked as a Lake County Substance Abuse Counselor, a paralegal and a grant writer for United Farmworkers of America, a representative for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local and an internal organizer for National Union of Health Workers.

Ms. Acosta is an active participant in local politics and serves on the Lake County Democratic Central Committee. She finds time to direct and instruct various Latino cultural programs, including the Kelseyville Ballet Folklorico and the Lake County Fair Latino Fiesta. Ms. Acosta cites the farmworker activist and leader, Cesar Chavez, as one of her inspirations, and she strives to impact her community as he did—through humility, kindness and fearless leadership.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Ms. Luisa Acosta for her achievements and for enriching our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today with the American Dream Award.

HONORING GUSTAVO BRAMBILA, RECIPIENT OF THE AMERICAN DREAM AWARD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gustavo Brambila, whom I have selected to receive the American Dream Award for California's 5th Congressional District. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in my district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service. Mr. Brambila is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Mr. Brambila was born in Jalisco, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States in 1957. He is a successful vintner and his hard work and ingenuity makes him one of our community's finest entrepreneurs.

Mr. Brambila developed an interest in wine making as he watched his father work in winery maintenance. He later joined Mike Grgich and Jim Barret in 1976 at Chateau Montelena to begin his career in the wine community. Shortly after, he joined Mike Grgich in the opening of Grgich Hill Cellars in 1977, where, in his first harvest, he produced the winning chardonnay in the Great Chardonnay Showdown of 1980. Inspired by old-world wine making techniques, Mr. Brambila produced his first wine under the Gustavo Wine label in 1996.